

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09494 01 OF 02 241251Z

46

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSC-05 SP-02 PRS-01

RSC-01 SS-15 USSS-00 SY-04 FAA-00 WRD-01 SCSE-00

SCA-01 AF-10 EA-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 MMS-04 SR-02 ORM-01

/116 W

----- 095627

O 241130Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0425

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYONIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT NIACT IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 9494

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS OGEN EG

SUBJECT: HIJACKING OF VC-10-GOE STATEMENT NOVEMBER 23

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF GOE NOVEMBER 23 STATEMENT ON VC-10

HIJACKING: SUMMARIZED IN CAIRO 9491:

1. QUOTE: WHEN SOME INDIVUALS DEPARTING FROM PALESTINIAN  
LEGITIMACY HIJACKED A BRITISH AIRLINER AND DETAINED ITS CIV-  
ILIAN PASSENGERS AS HOSTAGES, EGYPT IMMEDIATELY DECLARED HER  
STAND.

2. OUT OF HER COMMITMENT TO THE RABAT CONFERENCE RESO-

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAIRO 09494 01 OF 02 241251Z

LUTIONS WHICH STIPULATED THAT THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION OR-

GANIZATION (PLO) IS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL THE ARAB COUNTRIES TO ABSTAIN FROM INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PALESTINIAN ACTION, EGYPT DECIDED TO CONSIDER THE PLO AS SOLELY AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE WITH ALL THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ELSEWHERE, AND THEREFORE EGYPT REFUSED TO CONDUCT OUTSIDE THE PLO ANY CONTACT WITH ELEMENTS WHICH FALSELY CLAIM TO BELONG TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND REFUSES TO GO ALONG WITH INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS TAKEN BY IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS WHICH INFLICT THE GRAVEST HARM ON THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE ARAB NATION.

3. IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT THOSE WHO COMMITTED THIS INCIDENT ARE DISSIDENTS WHO DO NOT BELONG TO THE PLO. THEY EVEN TOLD THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FATAH IN TUNIS THAT THEY DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE PLO OR ITS COMMAND. INTERROGATION OF THEIR COLLEAGUES -- MEMBERS OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION WHO BLEW UP A CIVILIAN AIRLINER WITH ITS PASSENGERS AT ROME AIRPORT ON DECEMBER 17, 1973, RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF 31 OF THE INNOCENT PASSENGERS INCLUDING FOUR HIGH RANKING MOROCCAN OFFICIALS -- PROVED THAT THIS GROUP IS A SPLINTER ORGANIZATION WHICH BROKE AWAY FROM THE PALESTINIAN COMMANDO MOVEMENT WHICH OPERATED UNDER THE COMMAND OF AHMAD ABDEL GHAFOR WHO WENT TO LIBYA TO ORGANIZE AND FINANCE HIS MOVEMENT AND TRAIN THE INDIVIDUALS WHOM HE DECEIVED, AND SET UP AN ORGANIZATION CALLED 'THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE.'

4. THIS CRIMINAL OPERATION, IN WHICH SOME OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE INVOLVED BY FINANCING AND ENCOURAGING CANNOT IN ANY WAY SERVE THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND IS COMPLETELY APART FROM THE MEANING OF STRUGGLE AND ARAB COURAGE AND CHIVALRY, IS COMMITTED AGAINST UNARMED INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT COMMITTED ANY AGGRESSION AGAINST THE PALESTINE PEOPLE AND IN THE END SERVES THE AIMS OF THE ENEMY, SINCE COMMANDO ACTION IS ACCUSED OF TERRORISM WHEN IT IS ENTIRELY INNOCENT OF SUCH A CHARGE.

5. EGYPT HAS ACCEPTED, OUT OF HER NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, THAT THOSE WHO COMMITTED THE ROME AIRPORT INCIDENT BE HELD IN EGYPT, PRIOR TO THEIR EXTRADITION TO THE PLO WHICH IS AUTHORIZED.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAIRO 09494 01 OF 02 241251Z

IZED TO DECIDE ON EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. WHEN THIS GROUP WHICH COMMITTED THE LATEST OPERATION LINKED THE RELEASE OF THE PASSENGERS WHOM IT DETAINED AS HOSTAGES TO THE RELEASE OF THOSE WHO COMMITTED THE ROME AIRPORT AND KHARTOUM OPERATIONS, EGYPT WAS KEEN TO HANDLE THE ISSUE ON THE BASIS OF HER NATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND LOYALTY TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF LAW, ETHICS AND HUMAN CONSIDERATIONS.

6. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THIS OPERATION WAS DESIGNED TO SABOTAGE NATIONAL PALESTINIAN ACTION. THIS IS CLEAR WHEN WE LOOK AT IT OBJECTIVELY AND ALSO WHEN WE TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ITS TIMING FOR THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS NOT THE RELEASE OF A HANDFUL OF PERSONS BUT THE DEFAMATION OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE DURING THE HOURS WHICH IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED THE VOTING AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

7. IN VIEW OF ALL THIS, EGYPT APPROVED OF THE PRINCIPLED LINE OF THE PLO AS DECLARED YESTERDAY BY THE PLO SPOKESMAN IN BEIRUT THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR REVOLUTION ARE COMPLETELY AGAINST SUCH DESPERATE ACTS WHICH ARE MANIPULATED BY ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION. EGYPT ALSO APPROVED THE LINE DECLARED BY ONE OF THE FATAH LEADERS IN CAIRO ON FRIDAY EVENING IN WHICH HE RENOUNCED THESE ELEMENTS AND THEIR CRIMINAL ACTS WHICH ARE EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL TO THE PALESTINIAN INTERESTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09494 02 OF 02 241300Z

46

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSC-05 SP-02 PRS-01

RSC-01 SS-15 USSS-00 SY-04 FAA-00 WRD-01 SCSE-00

SCA-01 AF-10 EA-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 SR-02 ORM-01 MMS-04

/116 W

----- 095650

O 241130Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0426

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY RABAT NIACT IMMEDIATE  
USINT BAGHDAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 9494

8. THIS STAND OF THE PLO AND ITS COMMAND UPHOLDS INTERNATIONAL RESPECT (ACCORDED TO PLO) UNDER THE LEGITIMATE INTERNATIONAL UMBRELLA.

9. THIS STAND ALSO UNCOVERS SABOTEUR ELEMENTS AND ISOLATES THEM FROM COMMANDO ACTION.

10. THEREFORE, IT WAS NATURAL THAT THE PLO PASSED DEATH SENTENCES ON THE LEADERS OF THIS GROUP WHICH CAUSE SEDITION.

11. EGYPT WAS KEEN TO HANDLE THE SITUATION IN THE SPIRIT OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THESE FACTORS. IT WAS NECESSARY THAT SHE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE ANYBODY OTHER THAN THE PLO AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THEREFORE SHE CONSULTED WITH THE PLO COMMAND ON THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE HIJACKING OF THE BRITISH AIRLINER FROM THE FIRST MINUTE, AND CONDUCTED MANY CONSULTATIONS AND CONTACTS IN WHICH PALESTINE LEADER ABU IYAD, WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN CAIRO, PARTICIPATED.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAIRO 09494 02 OF 02 241300Z

12. EGYPT ALSO REMAINED IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH THE ARAB LEADERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN MOST OF THE WORLD CAPITALS AT THE LEVEL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

13. PRESIDENT HOUARI BOUMEDIENNA OF ALGERIA, PRESIDENT HABIB BOURGUIBA OF TUNISIA AND PRESIDENT SULIMAN FRANJIEH OF LEBANON CONTACTED PRESIDENT SADAT IN THIS RESPECT.

13. OUR OF HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCERN FOR THE REPUTATION AND DIGNITY OF THE ARAB NATION, EGYPT FACILITATED THE DEPARTURE OF ABU IYAD TO TUNIS ABOARD A SPECIAL EGYPTIAN PLANE AFTER REACHING AGREEMENT ON THIS WITH THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT.

14. ABU IYAD CONTACTED THE PLANE'S HIJACKERS AND TRIED HARD TO POINT OUT TO THEM THE HARMFUL RESULTS OF THIS TERRORIST ACTION TO THE COMMANDO MOVEMENT AND THE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

15. IN ORDER TO SPARE THE LIVES OF THE INNOCENT PASSENGERS, PRESIDENT SADAT DECIDED, AS AN EXCEPTIONAL MEASURE, WHICH IS NOT TO BE REPEATED, TO RESPOND TO THE CALLS ADDRESSED BY THE HEADS OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND THE OFFICIALS IN THE COUNTRIES

WHO HAVE NATIONALS AMONG THE PASSENGERS OF THE PLANE, TO RELEASE FIVE OF THE DETAINED PERSONS IN CAIRO AND SEND THEM BY ANOTHER EGYPTIAN PLANE TO TUNIS WHERE THEY WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE PLO REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BASIS OF THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE HIJACKERS OF THE PLANE IN TUNIS AND ABU IYAD AND ON CONDITION THAT THIS AGREEMENT IS FULLY CARRIED OUT. THE AGREEMENT STIPULATED THE RELEASE OF ALL HOSTAGES DETAINED IN TUNIS AS SOON AS THE FIVE DETAINEES IN CAIRO WERE RELEASED.

16. IN REITERATING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION TO SPARE INNOCENT LIVES, AND OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE DIG-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAIRO 09494 02 OF 02 241300Z

NITY OF THE ARAB NATION, AND IN RESPONSE TO THE CALLS OF LEADERS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD, EGYPT PUTS ON RECORD BEFORE THE ARAB NATION AND ITS LEADERS FOR THE SAKE OF TRUTH AND HISTORY THAT SILENCE CANNOT BE MAINTAINED OVER SUCH BEHAVIOR.

17. IT IS TREASON TO NATIONAL DUTY THAT ARAB ELEMENTS WORK IN COLLUSION WITH CRIMINAL GROUPS OF THIS KIND, FINANCE THEM, GIVE THEM SHELTER OR EVEN CLOSE THEIR EYES TO THEIR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY WITHOUT REGARD TO NATIONAL INTEREST. THIS CONSTITUTES A CHALLENGE TO INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY WHICH HAS BEEN ACQUIRED BY THE PLO AS A RESULT OF ITS LONG AND BITTER STRUGGLE.  
UNQUOTE.  
EILTS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PRESS COMMENTS, TERRORISTS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974CAIRO09494  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740341-0111  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741116/aaaaanrm.tel  
**Line Count:** 253  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SCCT  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** martinml  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by chicheje>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2003 by martinml>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HIJACKING OF VC-10-GOE STATEMENT NOVEMBER 23 FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF GOE NOVEMBER 23 STATEMENT ON VC-10  
**TAGS:** PINS, OGEN, EG, BOAC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005